

THE INDIANA
HISTORICAL SOCIETY
LIBRARY



WILLIAM HENRY SMITH
MEMORIAL

The Indiana Historical Society, a not-for-profit organization, was founded in 1830 to preserve and disseminate information about the state's past. The Indiana Historical Society Library (William Henry Smith Memorial) opened in 1934 in the Indiana State Library and Historical Building as a repository of rare books, manuscripts, pictures, maps, and ephemera relating to the history of Indiana and the Old Northwest. In 1977, the library moved into more spacious quarters in the addition to the State Library and Historical Building. In the Society library's early years, collecting centered on the period from the European exploration of the Middle West to the Civil War. New collections have recently been established in the areas of Indiana black, ethnic, and architectural history, as well as in twentieth-century social history.

THE COLLECTIONS

Manuscripts

The library contains nearly two million unpublished manuscript items, including letters, diaries, business and legal documents, and organizational records covering the state's history from the time of the French settlements in the early eighteenth century to modern-day Indiana. The library's strongest holdings are from the nineteenth century, and include the papers of Indiana's territorial governor, William Henry Harrison; author Lew Wallace; and statesmen-politicians Henry S. Lane, Conrad Baker, William H. English, and Charles W. Fairbanks. Also included are the papers of numerous private citizens from all parts of the state. The collection of twentieth-century manuscripts has been growing rapidly in recent years, with such acquisitions as papers of authors Booth Tarkington and Meredith Nicholson, and records of private social service agencies, ethnic organizations, cultural and professional groups, and architectural firms.

Books

The library's book collection, approximately ten thousand titles, contains works significant in early Midwest and Indiana history. Included are accounts by important European and American explorers and travelers, among which are several of the Jesuit *Relations*, reports of Jesuit missionaries in Canada in the seventeenth century; and the first French (1785) and English (1793) editions of Filson's history of Kentucky. The library also has both Audubon's *Birds of America* (4 v., 1827-38) and his *Viviparous quadrupeds of North America* (3 v., 1845-48). Other subjects represented are Indiana medical, religious, educational, and transportation history; territorial and early statehood laws and acts; and general works on Indiana history and biography. The library also maintains an extensive collection of local history books, atlases, pamphlets, and periodicals.

Pictures

The library's picture collection, which contains approximately 100,000 items, encompasses several areas of the graphic arts. It includes examples of early photographic processes, copy prints from original negatives, works of Indiana photographers, lithographic views and prints, engravings, and some original art works. Three of the larger photographic collections are the Bretzman Collection, the product of a family-operated studio in Indianapolis; the Monon Railroad Collection; and the Callis Steamboat Collection. Important among the library's lithographic works is Lewis's *Aboriginal portfolio* (1835-36), a set of eighty portraits of Indians involved in treaty negotiations during the years 1825 to 1827.

Maps

The map collection contains significant cartographic works showing the Midwest from the period of exploration to Indiana statehood, as well as state maps from the popular and important atlases of the early and middle nineteenth century.

Notable among the early works are Mitchell's "Map of the British and French Dominions in North America" (1755), generally considered to be the most important map in the history of American cartography; and Carey's 1801 map of the Northwest Territory, the first map to use the name "Indiana" to designate the area encompassing the future state. (See cover.)



DONATIONS

The most important sources for the library's research collections are private individuals and organizations that donate historical materials. Through letters, diaries, documents, pictures, and books of the past, researchers are able to study and understand much about the history of particular families, communities, organizations, and events, as well as about the history of the state and nation as a whole. Important historical material comes not only from public figures and famous writers, but also from private individuals whose papers help to document everyday life in Indiana. The library encourages individuals to donate family papers and photographs, and organizations to deposit their inactive records and historical materials. Donors can be assured that their gifts will receive proper care, since the library has a professional conservation staff and a climatically-controlled storage area. The library's staff will be happy to meet with prospective donors to discuss the preservation of their historical materials.

I wish to participate in the Indiana Historical Society Library's Gift Book Program:

Name	Address
City	State Zip Code

Bookplate inscription preferred _____

Amount of Donation

\$15 _____ \$50 _____ Other _____

\$25 _____ \$100 _____

Please make check payable to:

Indiana Historical Society Library

Please return form to:

Director of the Library
Indiana Historical Society
315 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46202

(see reverse side)

The Indiana Historical Society Library has built its collections through the generosity of individuals who have donated their books, manuscripts, and photographs. If you or someone you know has historically valuable material, please fill out this form and return it to the Library. Someone from the Library staff will contact you shortly.

Telephone

Name

Address

Type of material (*i.e.*, letters, diaries, photographs, business records, books)

Subject

Please return to: Indiana Historical Society Library, 315 West Ohio Street, Indianapolis, Indiana 46202, (317) 232-1879.
(see reverse side)

EXHIBITS

Through an extensive program of exhibits, the library attempts to make the state's history come alive to the public at large. Recent exhibits in the Society's quarters have covered such diverse topics as steamboating, circuses, the Civil War, and the career of Booth Tarkington. The library also has had numerous outside exhibits, including an annual ethnic history booth at the Indianapolis International Festival and black history exhibits for schools. For the public interested specifically in Indiana's black history, the library also publishes a quarterly newsletter, *Black History News & Notes*.



from the Flanner House Collection

USE OF THE LIBRARY

The library is open to anyone seeking information about Indiana history. Use of the collections is restricted to the library's Reading Room, with the exception of select microfilm copies of manuscript collections which may be borrowed on interlibrary loan. Copying is available at 25¢

per sheet and is done by the library staff. Because of the fragile or unique nature of most library materials, copying is done at the discretion of the collection librarian.

The professional library staff is always available to consult with anyone needing assistance in research.

For further information, write

Indiana Historical Society Library

315 West Ohio Street

Indianapolis, IN 46202

(317) 232-1879

Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday (September through May, except

state holidays and the Society's Annual

and Spring meetings), 8:30 a.m. - 4:00

p.m.

Parking: Meter parking until 3:00 p.m.

Parking garages at Capitol & Ohio Streets
and Meridian & Ohio Streets

Saturday only, parking allowed in lot north
of building